

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

It is with both sadness and excitement that we bid farewell to Alberto Isiordia, Director of WIA/WIOA Programs and Technical Assistance, as he leaves for a new position with Department of Agriculture. I've been privileged to work with Alberto for the last six years, and have admired how he values his staff, always coaching and mentoring to assist everyone in reaching their full potential. He exemplifies the leadership values we all strive to attain. He will be sorely missed, and we wish him well in his new position.

The agency is hard at work building the kind of culture that Alberto's leadership exemplifies. Recently, I've had the chance to interact with two of WCDD's teams, Voice for Change team and Change Management team, that are addressing employee engagement and agency culture in different ways. The newly-formed Change Management team will be developing a strategic change management structure that assesses the current state and the changes that we face, and how to best communicate the human element of those changes consistently. Simply put, the plan to explain the "why" behind the change in a timely fashion. From the local level, the Voice for Change team will help support the Change Management structure by creating an environment in our division where staff input is integral to the way we design and implement processes in order to best meet customer needs.

I'm excited to see this work unfold!

~Sandy Miller

Opportunity Act News

The Employment Security Department (ESD) issued additional Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I policies 5405 and 5609 and Workforce Information Notices (WINs) 0071 and 0070 Change 1 during the month of July. There are still policies in the Workforce Board's WIOA implementation process to be issued upon completion of discussion and subsequent action by the board. To stay abreast of WIOA policy development activity, please visit the [Public Comment](#) page and [WIOA Title I policy](#) page on the [Inside WorkSource](#) website, and the Workforce Board's [WIOA page](#), specifically the WIOA committee calendar/materials.

The WIOA Steering Committee of the Workforce Board met on July 28, where the Education Pathways and Integrated Service Delivery, Local Governance and Sector Strategies, and Accountability and ETPL subcommittees brought recommendations, as well as the Unified/Combine Plan, One-Stop Certification Process, Professional Development, and Technology and Access task-forces. Following the meeting, board members attended the annual retreat July 30-31, centered around development of the WIOA State Plan, including discussion of state economic and demographic trends, a proposed new WIOA performance accountability system, and employer engagement strategies.

ESD Hires New Monitoring Director

Greg Ferland joined ESD on July 6 as the new Director of Monitoring. He brings significant experience from both the state workforce system in Texas and local workforce system in King County, Washington, where he managed complex funding streams and established contract monitoring and technical assistance functions in the workforce, regulatory, human services, housing and youth services arenas.

In Texas, Greg helped draft legislation that reformed the workforce system, staffed the Texas Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness, and served as the Director of Contract Management for the Texas Workforce Commission. In King County, Greg served as the Director for the King County Community Services Division where he was responsible for veterans and workforce programs, which included establishing a cross-functional monitoring program.

You can contact Greg at gferland@esd.wa.gov.

Workforce Innovation Fund Proposal Submitted

Employment Security is partnering with Department of Social & Health Services' (DSHS) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington, and four Workforce Development Councils in rural Eastern Washington (the North Central, South Central, Benton-Franklin, and Eastern regions) to submit a \$1.1 million Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) proposal to fund a next generation rural sector strategy infrastructure initiative. If awarded, the initiative would seek to realize cost efficiencies and increase the quality of customer service in the region by developing leadership around employer engagement; aligning, coordinating, and integrating service delivery across WIOA core programs; and developing regional career pathways; and expanding "earn and learn" and up-skill/back-fill opportunities – all focused around the region's critical sectors.

Comprehensive Sector Contacts Desk Aid Released

Washington's sector strategies and efforts are on the cutting edge of workforce development. Great work is happening all across the state, but do you know who your sector counterparts are?

Through outreach to multiple Workforce Development Councils (WDCs), the Department of Commerce and the colleges, Employment Security's Workforce Development & Strategic Initiatives Office (WSDI) developed a [sectors desk aid](#) designed to:

- Promote sector initiative teamwork across the state
- Provide one place for sector specialists to find sector contact information, share best-practices, and collaborate on sector work

Information in this document will be updated regularly online. This tool is one more step toward continuing Washington's record of excellence! For questions about the sector desk aid, support in developing sector efforts, or to share sector work successes, please contact [Jennifer Peppin](#) in the WSDI office.

AmeriCorps Grant Awards and Service Opportunities

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently announced their AmeriCorps program grant awards for the upcoming program year. Competition was fierce, as the number of applications far exceeded the funds that CNCS was appropriated. We're excited to report that both the Washington Service Corps (WSC) and Washington Reading Corps (WRC) programs were awarded, making the WSC program the largest AmeriCorps program in Washington state. With both programs combined, we'll be able to place 717 AmeriCorps members statewide!

Do you know someone who may be interested in serving in AmeriCorps? Now is the time to apply! Service opportunities include tutoring students, helping jobseekers pursue gainful employment and learn workplace skills, engaging the public in environmental stewardship activities and helping individuals improve their quality of life. In addition to making an impact in the lives of citizens in need, serving in AmeriCorps provides an invaluable professional development experience that can propel a member's future career path. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

New Policy Guidance

[WIN0070 Change 1](#):
Initial Changes to SKIES
to Align with WIOA
Implementation

[WIN0071](#):
Availability of State Rapid
Response Funds to Ad-
dress Significant Declines
in Local PY15/FY16 WIOA
Title I Dislocated Worker
Formula Allotments

[WIOA Title 1 Policy 5405](#):
Conflict of Interest

[WIOA Title 1 Policy 5609](#):
Local Workforce Develop-
ment Area Designation

August 2015 Featured Events

None this month.



Please send us your feedback!

We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you'd like to see, or send us an article about something important to you! E-mail us at ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov.